CLAIMS

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I claim:

A method for processing a document page
 containing transparent graphics objects for printing,
 said method comprising:

creating a transparency list containing the transparent graphics objects of said document page; and

converting only objects contained in said transparency list into bitmaps for printing.

- 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising: generating a bitmap frame for at least one object in said transparency list wherein an area of said bitmap frame is less than an area of the entire document page.
- 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

 processing portions of the document page that
 do not include objects in said transparency list as
 non-bitmapped data.
- 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

 examining a non-transparent object of said document page for overlap with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list; and

inserting said non-transparent object into said transparency list upon said non-transparent object overlapping with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 generating a frame for each overlapping
compound object in said transparency list, an
overlapping compound object being formed by a
transparent graphics object and non-transparent

objects overlapping said transparent graphics object, said frame defining an area to be printed as a bitmap in printing the overlapping compound object.

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- 6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising: generating said frame for each overlapping compound object as a composition of subframes.
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- 7. A system comprising:
 - a processor; and

a memory coupled to said processor, and storing therein computer instructions for a method for processing a document page containing transparent graphics objects for printing wherein upon execution of said computer instructions on said processor, said method comprises:

creating a transparency list containing the transparent graphics objects of said document page in said memory; and

converting only objects contained in said transparency list into bitmaps for printing.

8. The system of Claim 7, wherein said method 25 further comprises:

generating a bitmap frame for at least one object in said transparency list wherein an area of said bitmap frame is less than an area of the entire document page.

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9. The system of Claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:

processing portions of the document page that do not include objects in said transparency list as non-bitmapped data.

10. The system of Claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:

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examining a non-transparent object of said document page for overlap with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list; and

inserting said non-transparent object into said transparency list upon said non-transparent object overlapping with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list.

11. The system of Claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:

generating a frame for each overlapping compound object in said transparency list, an overlapping compound object being formed by a transparent graphics object and non-transparent objects overlapping said transparent graphics object, said frame defining the area to be printed as a bitmap for printing the overlapping compound object.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein said method further comprises:

generating said frame for each overlapping compound object as a composition of subframes.

13. A computer program product comprising computer program code for a method for processing a document page containing transparent graphics objects for printing, said method comprising:

creating a transparency list containing the transparent graphics objects of said document page; and

converting only objects contained in said transparency list into bitmaps for printing.

14. The computer-program product of Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

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generating a bitmap frame for at least one object in said transparency list wherein an area of said bitmap frame is less than an area of the entire document page.

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15. The computer-program product of Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

processing portions of the page that do not include objects in said transparency list as non-bitmapped data.

16. The computer-program product of Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

examining a non-transparent object of said document page for overlap with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list; and

inserting said non-transparent object into said transparency list upon said non-transparent object overlapping with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list.

17. The computer-program product of Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

generating a frame for each overlapping compound object in said transparency list, an overlapping compound object being formed by a transparent graphics object and non-transparent objects overlapping said transparent graphics object, said frame defining the area to be printed as a bitmap for printing the overlapping compound object.

18. The computer-program product of Claim 17, 35 wherein said method further comprises:

generating said frame for each overlapping compound object as a composition of subframes.